

NEWS from



Bill Postmus
Supervisor, 1st District

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POSTMUS ELECTED CHAIR OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION

Commission Awards Grants Authorized by Prop. 10 Tobacco Tax

RANCHO CUCAMONGA--First District San Bernardino County Supervisor Bill Postmus was elected today as Chairman of the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County.

The Children and Families Commission was created in December 1998 following voter approval of Proposition 10, the Children & Families Act of 1998. The Act provided additional taxes on tobacco products and created a revenue stream directed toward childcare and healthcare programs for young children and their families.

The Act is intended to support and improve the early development of children from the prenatal stage to five years of age. This is accomplished by increasing access to support services for children and their families by expanding programs, leveraging existing funds, filling in service gaps, and increasing the integration of services currently provided to young children.

The Commission, which receives approximately \$30 million per year, is comprised of seven members, including one member of the Board of Supervisors, the Assistant County Administrator for Social Services, the Director of Public Health, and four members appointed by the Board from categories specified in the initiative. The San Bernardino County Transitional Assistance Department contracts with the Commission as lead agency.

The Children & Families Trust Fund for San Bernardino County currently has approximately \$57 million available.

Postmus was appointed to the Commission on January 30 by the Board of Supervisors. He

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replaced current San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman Fred Aguiar of Chino as the Board's representative to the Commission.

"I'm pleased to be elected to this Chairmanship because I believe it's an important assignment as far as the First District is concerned," Postmus said. "From the perspective of First District Supervisor, one of the problems I want to focus on is isolation from services," Postmus added. "Families, especially in rural areas, often lack adequate insurance, information and transportation. I want to work with our community-based, faith-based, and non-profit organizations to ensure all resources, public and private, are brought to bear to minimize such isolation."

The Statewide governing body under the Children & Families Act, the California Children and Families Commission, serves as an umbrella and support center for county commissions. The State Trust Fund allocates 20 percent of the funds collected to the State Commission and divides the remaining 80 percent among the county commissions based on the annual number of births and county of residence of the mothers.

Last April, the Commission issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit agencies to provide services that meet the goals and objectives of the Commission. One hundred proposals were submitted. Forty-four contracts have been awarded to date for a total of \$16 million. The RFP solicited proposals addressing children (prenatal to five) and their families in the following three areas: child development/care; children's health/wellness; parental education/support.

The Commission will issue additional RFP(s) later this year.

The Commission contracts with 27 different organizations throughout the County. Last year the Commission authorized up to \$3 million for ten community agencies for one-time projects that include facility renovation and implementation of pilot programs designed to enhance the Commission's goals of improved child development, healthcare, and parent education/support.

In addition, the Commission authorized up to \$5.8 million for direct services to be provided by an additional 17 community organizations. Some of the services include: community-based family service centers in San Bernardino, Ontario and Montclair; childcare/development programs; mobile dental services; and support for special needs children and their families.

For further information regarding the Children and Families Commission, please contact the Commission office at (909) 386-7706.

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